

In the News

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Volume 3 Issue 2, January 23, 2004

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Message from the Mayor First-in-the-Nation Primary

We got out the vote! I'd like to personally thank all of our eligible residents who voted in the District of Columbia's presidential primary on January 13. It was a truly inspired effort on so many fronts—from poll workers, avid campaigners, senior citizens to college students, all passionate about voting and helping to publicize our lack of representation in Congress.

This was not only the first presidential primary. It was a voting rights primary. Getting the voting rights message out to the nation was the purpose of making the DC primary first in the nation. And we got the word out all over the world: newspapers and websites and TV stations across the nation carried the story, as well as news outlets in Australia, Taiwan, India and the United Kingdom.

On January 13, I cast my ballot at St. Mary's Court in Foggy Bottom. Soon after, I stopped by the Washington Seniors Wellness Center in Ward 7 on Alabama Avenue, SE and Bertie Backus Middle School in Ward 5 on South Dakota Avenue, NE.

Turnout in the election was better than anticipated, despite cold weather and a slim ballot of candidates. When all 142 precincts in the city were counted, the tally was 42,738 of our registered Democrat voters who took to the polls. That's a 16 percent turnout of Democrats, which I am happy to report is higher than in past presidential primaries.

Turnout was never the point of the primary. Voting rights is the point. As many of you know, the DC Council and I decided to hold the first primary in part because the United States Congress keeps the city from using our own funds to lobby for voting rights. Last week's primary was one of the few ways we have to enlighten the nation about the denial of democracy in the District.

Unfortunately, polls show that most Americans are unaware that District of Columbia residents are denied a very basic right. We pay some of the highest taxes in the country—our sons and daughters fight and die for this country—yet we have no voting representation in Congress.

This year's presidential election is the 40th anniversary of the first time that District residents could vote for president and vice president. It was the 23rd amendment to the Constitution that gave us the right to vote in presidential elections. That amendment was passed in 1961—the first presidential election after that was in 1964. For that historic vote in 1964, more than 90 percent of the registered voters turned out.

I urge all of our residents to join me, our DC Council and our Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton to continue our pitched battle for attaining voting rights. This is a travesty that will not be reconciled in Congress until people across the country understand that democracy in this country is for everyone but District residents.

As the mayor of the only city in the continental United States where residents do not have basic voting rights in Congress, I ask for the help of all our citizens. We can no longer sit back and wait for Congress to do what's right. We need to educate and motivate the American people to insist their representatives ensure 'basic fundamental' rights for all people.



AGENCY WEBSITES

[Office of Tax and Revenue](#)

[Department of Parks and Recreation](#)

[Department of Employment Services](#)

[Metropolitan Police Department](#)

[Office of Boards and Commissions](#)

[Commission on the Arts and Humanities](#)

Celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King's Legacy

I joined city leaders, residents and others on the weekend of January 17, 18 and 19 to celebrate the living legacy, and the 75th birthday, of the great civil rights leader and American pioneer Dr. Martin Luther King.

This year marks the District's 19th celebration to remember Dr. King for his tremendous service and commitment to the American way of life and, to ideals that empower and enfranchise all people. It is hard to imagine what our lives would be like today had it not been for Dr. King's constant non-violent push against racial injustice and inequality for people whose voices were not heard. We are indebted to him for his sacrifices, particularly the ultimate sacrifice of giving his life for what he believed.



This year we entitled our celebration, held January 16 at the University of the District of Columbia, "Let Your Voice Ring." It's important that we understand the need to do so. It is with a sense of urgency that we remember that it was not so long ago that our voices were silenced. Through the many struggles and obstacles that were overcome, we've been given the right to 'let our voices ring.' It is necessary to recognize that there was no small price paid for those of us who live in this day and age to have the ability to vote and 'let our voices ring.' Dr. King reminded us that, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere" and worked tirelessly to overcome injustice.

As Dr. King sought to 'let freedom ring,' we realize that there are still freedoms that the citizens of DC are denied. We realize that until we are given full voting rights, we still have work to do. We realize that we cannot become complacent or weary but must continue to pursue the dream that motivated our slain civil rights leaders.

Dr. King's dream was a dream to be realized by all. It has forever impressed us with the need for everyone to be included. We all have a part in carrying his dream forward. We all have a responsibility to 'let our voices ring.' As we strive for the dream to be realized, we continue to look for new ways to enfranchise all residents of the nation's capital. We seek new opportunities in jobs, health care, housing, and education. To this end, my administration is committed to serving DC residents.

Community Profile

Zora Brown

Ward 1 resident Zora Brown is founder and chairperson of Cancer Awareness Program Services, Breast Cancer Resource Committee and Rise, Sister, Rise, (a breast cancer support group for African American women). But it doesn't stop there. In 2002, Zora and two nieces founded SASSI (Sisters Accessing Skills for Survival and Intervention), which acts as an agent for change in the way health issues for African American women are handled.

Zora was named one of 10 Women's Health Heroes by American Health for Women, and in 1991 President Bush (Sr.) appointed her to the National Cancer Advisory Board, where she served until 1998. For a number of years, she was a consultant to the US Conference of Mayors Cancer Awareness Campaign and was involved in special projects regarding disparities in healthcare for minorities.



Zora Brown

Zora produced the 30-minute film "Once a Year...for a Lifetime" that first aired in 1990. She appears regularly on television, and she co-authored the book *100 Questions and Answers About Breast Cancer*. A 20-plus year cancer survivor, Zora speaks at area churches once a month.

"It [cancer research] is most important," Zora said. "In the 15 years I've been doing this, I've seen so much progress." Despite the fact that four generations of her family have been diagnosed with breast cancer, and in spite of the death of her sister Belva, she continues to share information that could save the lives of others. As an outspoken advocate for minority and women's health issues, Zora is recognized as a leader who possesses great passion and determination. She has received over 35 awards and honors, including 14 Community Service Awards. She said she is very grateful for the support she's received from organizations and individuals.

Zora was the August 2003 adult winner of the Mayor's Community Service Award, sponsored by the DC Commission on National and Community Service. If you would like to nominate a youth or adult for the monthly award, visit www.cnscs.dc.gov for nomination information, or call (202) 727-9461.



LINK TO OTHER WEBSITES

[DC Agenda](#)

[Hands on DC](#)

[DC Convention and Tourism](#)

[DC Public Library](#)

Anacostia Waterfront Initiative Exhibition

On January 14, I was pleased to open *DC Builds: The Anacostia Waterfront*, a new exhibition with a scale-model of the revitalized Anacostia Waterfront at the National Building Museum in Northwest. The opening coincided with an Urban Land Institute international symposium on how to best implement the city's vision and plan for the Anacostia. The Anacostia Waterfront Initiative (AWI) is more than just a vision for the waterfront. It's a vision for 21st century Washington—with the Anacostia River at its center. This exhibition will allow residents from across the city to learn about the Anacostia River and to see proposed development of neighborhoods and completed new parks and bridges along the river. The model is more than 20 feet long. The exhibit runs through Sunday, May 23, 2004.

In many ways, we here in Washington are part of one of the greatest traditions of urban planning in the nation and the world. More than 200 years ago, it was Pierre L'Enfant who laid out the streets for a new federal city. One hundred years ago, it was the McMillan Commission that envisioned the stunning parks and public spaces that we enjoy today. Today, our challenge is to create a world-class city—a city that stretches beyond its monuments and museums. The Anacostia River was pivotal to the birth of our city. And yet, over the years, it has become our most neglected natural resource. I have bicycled, kayaked, walked, and hiked almost every inch of this river and personally witnessed its spectacular beauty and its sad neglect. The time for the Anacostia has come. We believe in the power of the Anacostia River to be one of the great urban rivers in our country and a symbol of our city's renewal. Why? Cities were founded on waterfronts, and rivers provided their lifeblood. And today, we see cities around the world returning to their waterfronts as a source of regeneration and renewed civic identity.

This is especially true for the world's great capital cities, which are charting their futures by returning to their rivers. London is turning to the Thames and Barcelona to the harbor. These cities are known not only as seats of government, but as vital metropolitan centers, and this is in no small part due to their vision to recover the waterfronts. This must be our charge in our nation's capital. The Anacostia River shall no longer be a boundary that separates and divides our city. Even amidst the growing prosperity that we have experienced over the past years, we remain a city that is divided by extremes of wealth and poverty, education and employment.

I am especially proud that this waterfront vision reflects the input of thousands of our citizens and an unprecedented collaboration with the federal government. I believe the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative is one of the most important partnerships ever created between the District and federal governments. Together we can reconnect our city. For more information on the exhibit, please visit: www.nbm.org.

Mayor's Arts Awards

On January 5, I was proud to host the annual Mayor's Arts Awards program at the John F. Kennedy Center. This very special awards show highlights the value of the arts in our city and in American culture. It's an annual event that's come to symbolize so much about the role the arts can play in education and in the District as a whole. The Mayor's Arts Awards program was established in 1981 to honor outstanding accomplishments of individuals and organizations concerned with the arts in Washington, DC. The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities coordinates the program. The public submits nominations, and a jury of distinguished professionals in the local arts community selects award recipients.

Awards are given in the following categories: Excellence in an Artistic Discipline, Outstanding Emerging Artist, Excellence in Service to the Arts, and Outstanding Contribution to Arts Education. A new award was given this year—the Superintendent's Award for Outstanding Arts Teacher.

I believe strongly that the arts must be a part of any great city. Artists are among the most valued and highly respected citizens. They help us celebrate our diversity and realize the value in self expression. And a thriving arts community is critical to our economy. Tourism depends on our city's vibrant cultural life. But I believe we can always do more to celebrate the great local artists of Washington, DC. That's why the awards are so important. In a city that revolves around politics, art is the true legacy of Washington. Artists give us a voice and help define us as a people. They often express who we want to be.

At the ceremony, I also presented a very special achievement award to singer Roberta Flack. She was inspired by her father, a church organist, and she began playing piano at a young age. She won a music scholarship to Howard University and once taught music in the DC public schools. Artists like Roberta can serve as an inspiration to all of us here in the District. For more information about the awards, please visit <http://dcarts.dc.gov>.



Police Service Area Boundary Changes

On January 12, I joined Metropolitan Police Chief Charles Ramsey to announce a major change in the structure and organization of the MPD's Police Service Areas—better known as PSAs. The PSA system provides the framework for our day-to-day community policing operations. It allows for the development of neighborhood partnerships enabling law enforcement to work with community leaders and tailor action plans that are specifically designed to address crime problems in particular areas.

As we begin a new year, we do so with a renewed commitment to make our city safer and target specific crime activity across the District. The new PSA system will be an essential component of this effort. Our current PSA system was designed and implemented nearly seven years ago. It was put together without the kind of collaboration and dialogue with civic leaders and citizens that would have made it better. The new PSA plan is very much a community effort. Under the leadership of Chief Ramsey, MPD has engaged Advisory Neighborhood Commission members, councilmembers, community leaders, agency directors and citizens at large to bring local knowledge and street smarts to this effort. Decisions on boundaries, staffing levels and management have been made with input from hundreds of citizens and civic leaders. The new PSA system will:

- **Provide** greater flexibility in police efforts on the street to target “hot spots” and address specific problems and situations.
- **Create** boundaries that are more closely aligned with DC neighborhoods and neighborhood clusters. These boundaries will be “custom made” as opposed to the “one-size-fits all” approach that we now have. Neighborhoods will no longer be divided between two or more PSAs.
- **Reduce** the total number of PSAs from 83 to 43, which will allow for much better management, leadership and oversight.

I am confident that our new PSA system will put the Metropolitan Police Department in a stronger position to fight crime and make DC neighborhoods safer.

Making the District's neighborhoods safer will take the collective effort of residents, police, other city workers, elected officials and civic leaders. In short, it will take the efforts of the entire city. The new PSA structure provides an opportunity to redevelop and re-energize these partnerships.

State of the District Address

I invite the residents of the District of Columbia to join me at my annual State of the District speech on February 3. This year's State of the District will be held at 7 pm at the historic Lincoln Theatre at 1215 U Street, NW. I'll be talking about how far we've come as a city. And I'll be talking about the challenges that lie ahead. I look forward to seeing you there. The event will be carried live on Cable 16 and also webcast at www.dc.gov.

Doors open at 6 pm, and the program begins at 7 pm.



Mayor's Week in Review

Mayor Makes the Rounds On Primary Day

On **Tuesday, January 13**, I visited voters at the polls at the Washington Seniors Wellness Center in Southeast and at Bertie Backus Middle School in Northeast, for our first-in-the-nation presidential primary.

Mayor Unveils Anacostia Exhibition

On **Wednesday, January 14**, I delivered remarks at the unveiling of the Anacostia Waterfront Exhibition Opening at the National Building Museum.

Mayor Attends Martin Luther King Day City Observance

On **Thursday, January 15**, I delivered remarks at the citywide observance of the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr., held at the University of the District of Columbia.

Mayor Addresses Group in Philadelphia

On **Friday, January 16**, I delivered remarks at the "Reinventing Older Communities Conference" in Philadelphia. I joined a host of mayors to address the city planning issue of transit-oriented development.

Mayor Recognizes Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

On **Monday, January 19**, I recognized Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day by attending and speaking at several events:

- The United Planning Organization's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast
- The Emancipation Proclamation Tribute at the National Archives
- The DRUM (Development Roundtable for Upward Mobility) 13th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Celebration
- The MLK Day of Service at the Brookland Manor Apartments in Northeast
- The Orange Hat Anti-Crime Rally on Kentucky Avenue in Southeast

District Activities



DC Mayor Anthony Williams cast his vote in DC's first-in-the-nation presidential primary on Tuesday, Jan. 13.



Mayor Williams and Police Chief Charles Ramsey unveil administration's new PSA restructuring plan to address crime problems in particular areas.



Mayor Williams speaks to attendees at the annual winter meeting of the US Conference of Mayors on January 21 in Northwest.



On January 20, Mayor Williams was paid a courtesy visit by Consul General of France Jean-Pierre Allex-Lyoudi in the Mayor's Ceremonial Office.



Community News

- [Mayor Williams Decries Violence](#)
- [City Celebrates Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.](#)
- [Mayor Williams Outlines New Police Service Area \(PSA\) Boundary Changes](#)

[View all News Releases](#)

Upcoming Events

2/03	2004 State of the District Address 6 pm Doors open 7 pm Program begins The Lincoln Theatre 1215 U Street, NW
2/10	Neighborhood Citizen Summits Ward 5 7 pm 125 Michigan Avenue, NE Trinity College
2/11	Neighborhood Citizen Summits Ward 3 7 pm 3401 Nebraska Avenue, NW Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church
2/17	Neighborhood Citizen Summits Ward 8 7 pm 2498 Alabama Avenue, SE Allen Chapel AME Church
2/18	Neighborhood Citizen Summits Ward 5 6008 Georgia Avenue, NW 7 pm Nativity School
2/19	Neighborhood Citizen Summits Ward 2 7 pm 7th & P Streets, NW Kennedy Recreation Center
2/23	Neighborhood Citizen Summits Ward 1 7 pm 16th & Harvard Streets, NW All Souls Church
2/24	Neighborhood Citizen Summits Ward 7 7 pm 4103 Benning Road, NE Boys & Girls Club
2/26	Neighborhood Citizen Summits Ward 6 1000 G Street, NE Sherwood Recreation Center

